

The
HOUSTON CLUB

UNIVERSITY
OF PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA.

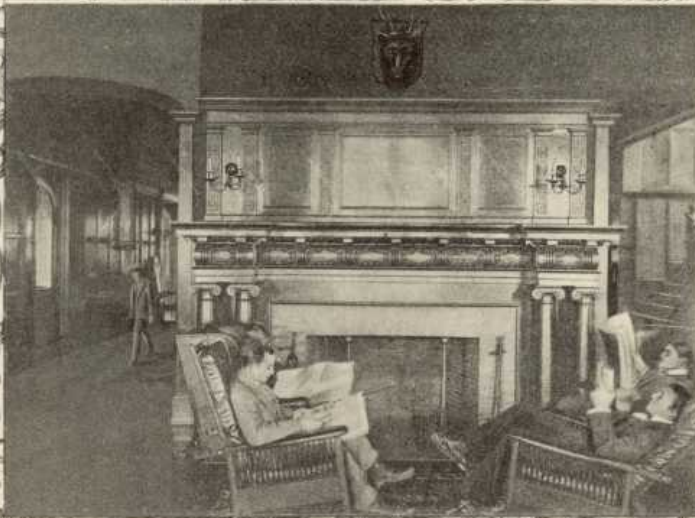


Gettysburg
1896

THE HOUSTON CLUB.



HENRY HOWARD HOUSTON, SR.



HENRY HOWARD HOUSTON, JR.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA.

THE HOUSTON CLUB.

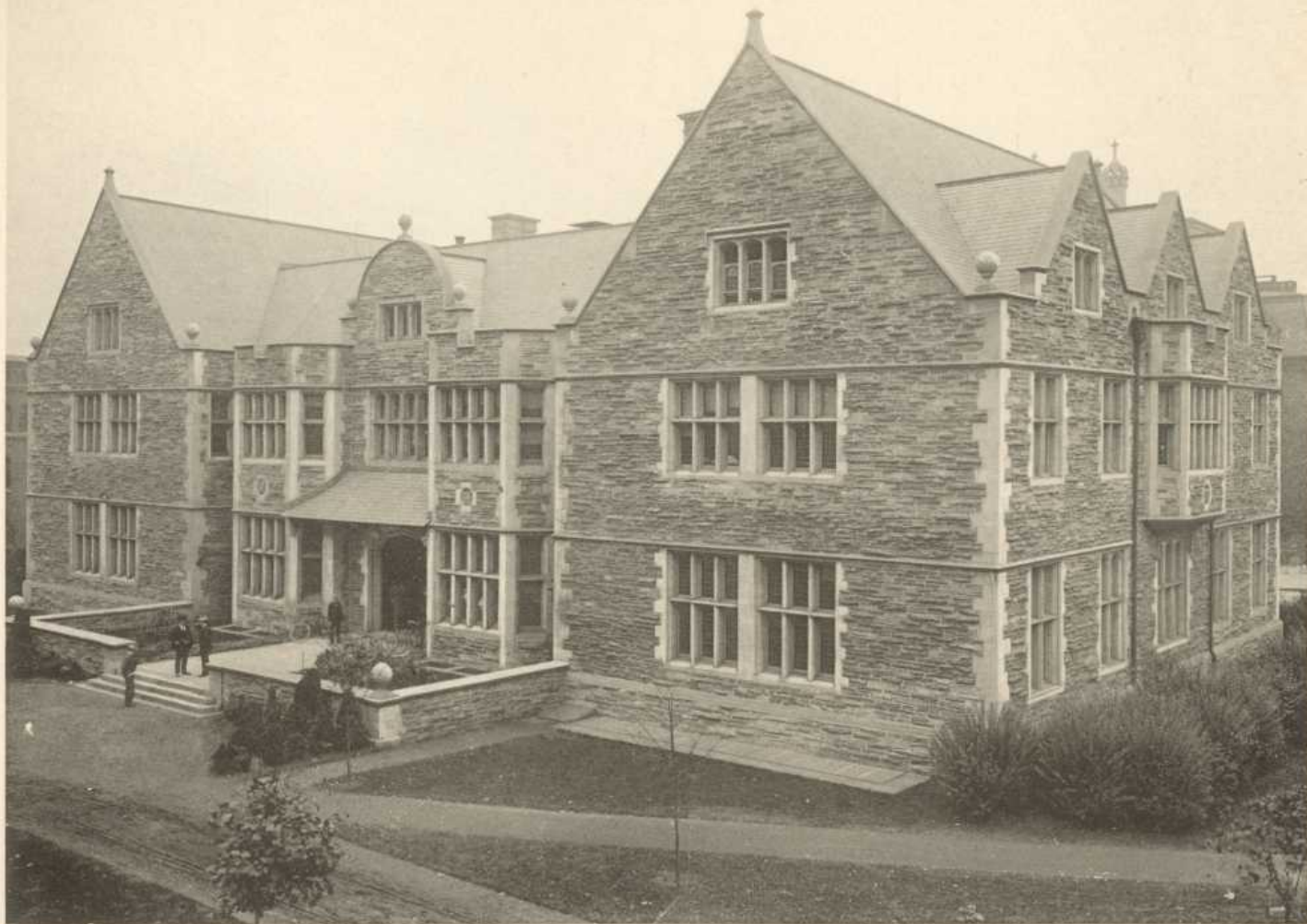
A College President not long ago spoke boldly for the value of play as play, in the education of young men, and pointed out its importance for the correction of the errors of Puritanism and commercialism. He was defending athletics, but he might profitably have pushed the thought further and have found in Houston Hall the illustration for nearly every point.

Here is a unique experiment in college education, the frank and practical recognition of the importance of the leisure hour. Houston Hall was built largely through the generosity of the late H. H. Houston and his wife, as a memorial to their son, Henry Howard Houston, of the Class of '78. It was opened in January, 1896, with the purpose of providing for the students of the University on their own grounds all forms of wholesome recreation and amusement, except athletics, which were already established. How perfect was the equipment for this purpose only the Hall itself can show, though the pictures in this little volume, so far as they go, fairly indicate it. Not a detail has been spared that could help toward the end to be gained. There are nowhere softer rugs to tread, or more tasteful pictures to admire; no deeper, more comfortable leather chairs, better billiard and pool tables, truer bowling alleys, or more inviting baths and swimming pools. And yet all is as simple as it is graceful and convenient. The great, because silent and constant, influence of the Hall is not toward the breeding of luxury, but toward the cultivation of refinement and good manners. It is the recreation place of a community of gentlemen, and no young man who spends his odd moments here for four years will fail to carry away with him something of that excellent quiet dignity which is in its very atmosphere.

The Hall is the centre of all the undergraduate and social activity of the University. Here the college papers are edited, the college dances held, the University's public receptions given. Societies meet here for religious worship, for study, for debate, for amusement. The banded amateur photographers have their mysterious but well appointed den; the musical clubs rehearse, the bowling team prepares for the downfall of honored foes, and the chess club plans its campaigns, all under this hospitable roof, and the undergraduate of to-day finds it difficult to imagine how his older brothers contrived to carry on any of these things without it.

Best of all, Houston Hall is managed by the students themselves. Before the opening of the Hall there was formed the Houston Club, to which any student is eligible, the dues being two dollars a year. Small fees are charged also for the games and baths, and these revenues, with the book room, the news stand and the restaurant, make the Club and the Hall self-supporting. The Club elects the House Committee and all other committees and officers, and the University authorities have had no reason to regret this arrangement.

The Hall and the Club have been called experiments, but they are no longer so. Every day two thousand students push open the hospitable doors of the Club, and every day it obtains a stronger hold upon the student life at Pennsylvania. It is worth all that it cost, and more, and its success will probably, before many years, be duplicated in many another American University.



HOUSTON HALL.



THE READING ROOM.



THE BILLIARD AND POOL ROOM.



THE RECEPTION ROOM—Second Floor.



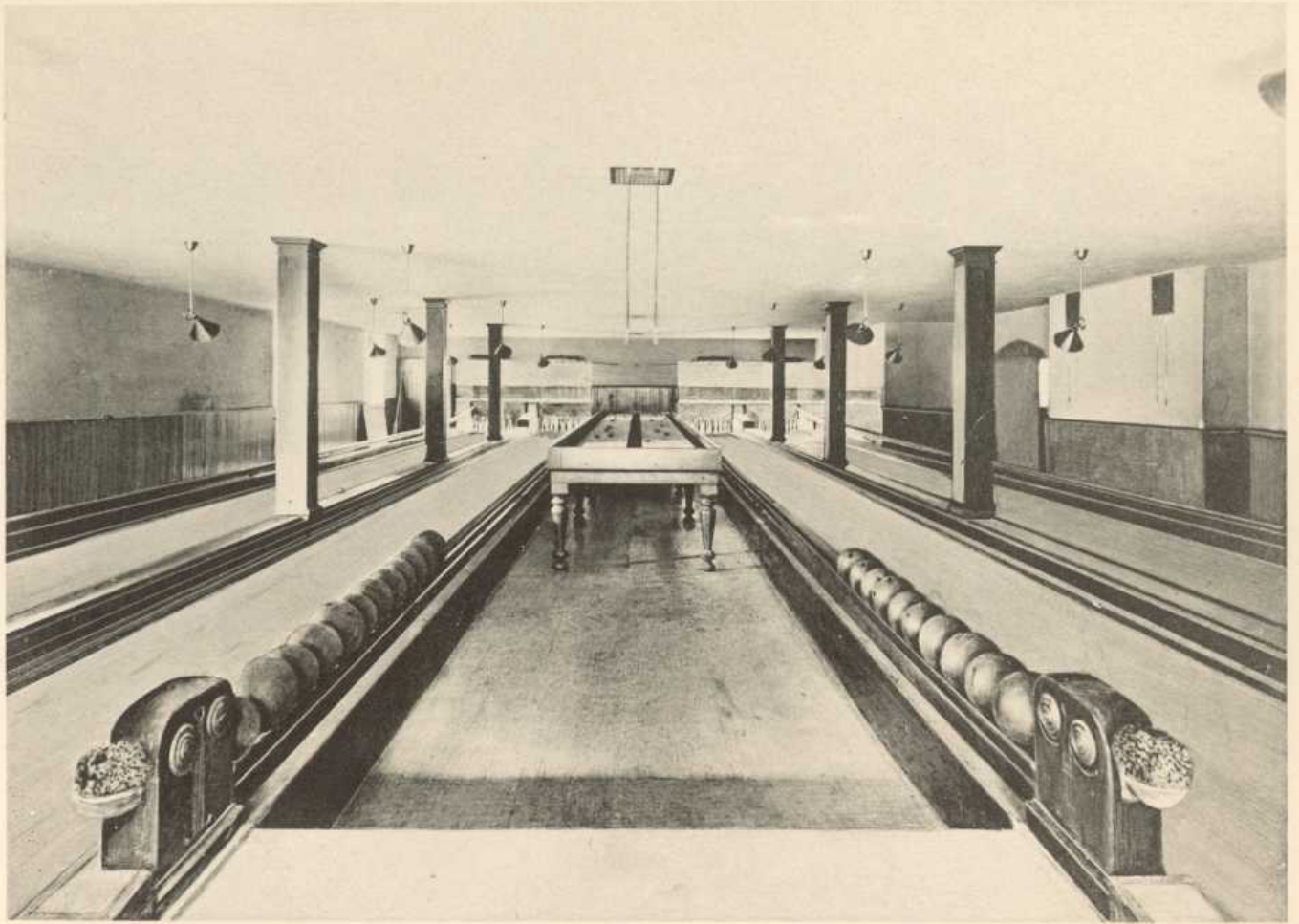
THE AUDITORIUM.



THE TROPHY ROOM.



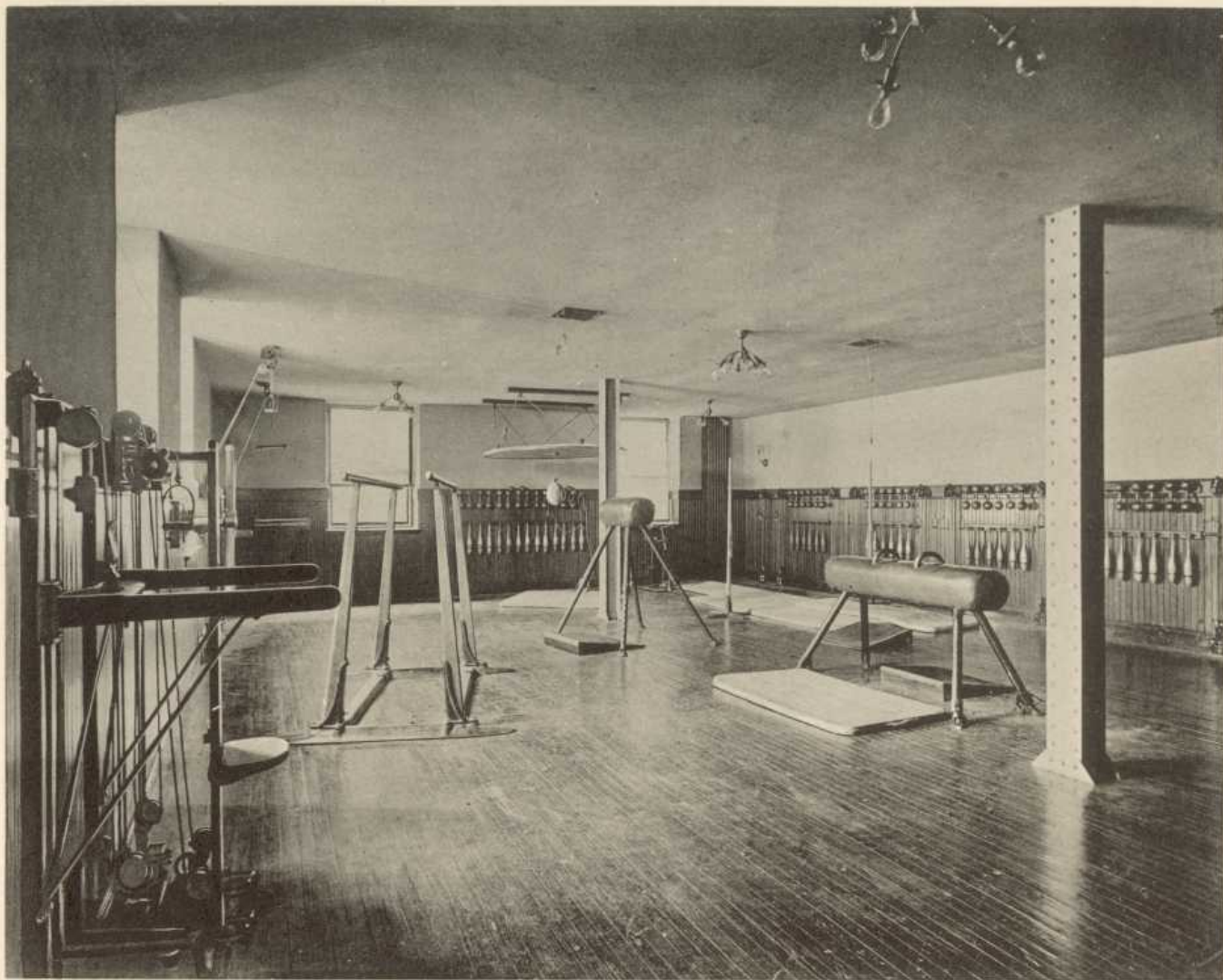
THE MUSIC ROOM.



THE BOWLING ALLEY.



THE SWIMMING POOL.



THE GYMNASIUM.